

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 02837 01 OF 02 211255Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----106285 211258Z /45  
O 211240Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3342

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 02837

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PLEASE REPEAT TO BONN, PARIS, USNATO,  
GENEVA (US SALT TWO)

E.O. 11652:GDS  
TAGS: PARM NATO SALT MNUC  
SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR NAC CONSULTATION ON SALT

REF: STATE 042975

1. IN ABSENCE OF TONY DUFF WHO WAS SNOW BOUND IN DORSET, CHARGE MADE POINTS REFTEL FEBRUARY 20 TO ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY PATRICK MOBERLY. HE APPRECIATED US EFFORT TO ACHIEVE SMOOTHEST POSSIBLE SESSION IN NAC ON FEBRUARY 24 AND HIGH-LEVEL US INTEREST REFLECTED IN OUR APPROACH. ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION, COVERAGE OF GRAY AREAS IN SALT III PRINCIPLES AND ER/RB, HE SAID THAT UK POSITIONS HAD NOT ADVANCED TO POINTS WHERE THE UK COULD ASSIST MUCH NOW IN ATTAINING US OBJECTIVES IN FRIDAY NAC MEETING.
2. ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION LANGUAGE, HE AFFIRMED THAT THE UK WOULD STAND BY ITS PREVIOUS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE FORMULATIONS PROPOSED BY THE US. MOREOVER, THE EXTENT OF FRG CONCERN WAS CLEAR FROM UK-FRG BILATERALS LAST WEEK. WILBERFORCE, HEAD OF FCO DEFENSE DEPARTMENT,

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 02837 01 OF 02 211255Z

WHO ACCOMPANIED MOBERLY, THOUGHT THE LEGAL PRECISIONS IN REFTEL WOULD HELP EASE FRG CONCERNS AND SAID HMG AS WELL WOULD FIND THE ARGUMENTATION OF HELP. MOBERLY UNDERLINED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP THE US COULD TAKE TO SPEED NAC CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE AN UNAMBIGUOUS PRESENTATION IN NAC ON AND COMMITMENT TO A SCENARIO FOR HANDLING NON-CIRCUMVENTION IN US PUBLIC

STATEMENTS AND CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY ON THE TREATY TEXT. HE BELIEVED THIS WOULD EASE FRG CONCERNS AND HELP IN BUILDING A CONSENSUS IN SUPPORT OF US APPROACH.

3. REGARDING TREATMENT OF GRAY AREAS IN SALT III PRINCIPLES, MOBERLY REFLECTED UK DESIRE TO LEAVE OPTIONS FULLY OPEN BUT HE ADMITTED THAT FORMULATION US PROPOSED SEEMED TO DO JUST THAT. HOWEVER, HE SAID HMG WOULD NOT HAVE A POSITION ON THE MATTER BY FEBRUARY 24 AND THAT, ACCORDINGLY, UK WOULD BE IN A LISTENING MODE AT THE NAC MEETING. RECALLING RECENT FRENCH-UK BILATERAL ON THIS AND OTHER MATTERS, MOBERLY NOTED THAT THE FRENCH COULD HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT STATEMENTS THAT SEEMED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THEATRE AND OTHER SYSTEMS, NOT ONLY BECAUSE THEY MIGHT THREATEN TO ENTANGLE THE FRENCH IN NEGOTIATIONS BUT ALSO, AND MOBERLY STRESSED THE REMARK-ABLE RECENT SHIFT IN FRENCH STRATEGIC VIEWS, BECAUSE THEY MIGHT CUT ACROSS THE CONTINUUM OF DETERRENCE.

4. ON ERW, MOBERLY SAID THAT THE US PROPOSAL REMAINED UNDYBDSLIEW AND THAT, AS A RESULT, UK WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO SUPPORT US AT FEBRUARY 24 NAC. CHARGE UNDERLINED THE ADVANCE REPRESENTED BY THE TWO STAGE APPROACH AND MOBERLY SAID THAT HE HAD ASSUMED SUCH AN

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PAGE 03 LONDON 02837 01 OF 02 211255Z

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PAGE 01 LONDON 02837 02 OF 02 211254Z  
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O 211240Z FEB 78  
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 02837

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APPROACH WOULD HAVE BEEN ESSENTIAL TO OPERATION OF THE  
ARMS CONTROL LINKAGE TO THE SS-20.

5. COMMENT: THE BRITISH RECOGNIZE THAT WASHINGTON IS  
ANXIOUS FOR EARLY NAC AGREEMENT ON ALL THESE MATTERS.  
WE FORESEE NO PROBLEM WITH HMG ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION  
ISSUE AND BELIEVE THEY WILL GO ON COUNSELING FRG ON THE  
WISDOM OF THE US APPROACH. WE ALSO BELIEVE THE UK WILL  
BE FLEXIBLE ON TREATMENT OF GRAY AREAS IN PRINCIPLES  
AS LONG AS NO OPTIONS ARE CLOSED.

6. ERW IS MORE COMPLICATED. THE BRITISH -- INCLUDING  
DAVID OWEN -- ARE NOW FULLY AWARE OF OUR VIEWS. HOWEVER,  
WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD NOT KEY OUR EFFORTS WITH OWEN  
AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS TO A SCHEDULE OF NAC MEETINGS.  
THIS IS A POLITICAL QUESTION OF CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY  
HERE AND IT WILL BE DECIDED BY THE PRIME MINISTER. HIS  
CONCURRENCE, WHICH WE THINK WILL EVENTUALLY BE FORTH-  
COMING, IS IN TURN LARGELY DEPENDENT ON AGREEMENT BY THE  
FRG. CALLAGHAN CLEARLY WISHES TO AVOID GETTING OUT IN  
FRONT OF SCHMIDT ON THIS ISSUE. THUS, IN OUR JUDGMENT  
IF THE GERMANS FALL INTO LINE, THE BRITISH WILL NOT BE  
FAR BEHIND.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 02837 02 OF 02 211254Z

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## Message Attributes

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